

THE BLOOMFIELD CITIZEN.

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THE BLOOMFIELD CITIZEN

A WEEKLY JOURNAL

LOCAL NEWS AND HOME READING.

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NEWS SUMMARY.

Foreign.—Admiral Courbet to follow up his victory in Tonquin. —Khartoum long fortified and garrisoned against El Mahdi. —Canada Trades Congress (International) object to Chinese cheap labor. —American salted meats suspended from France for the time; parliament can't work off any of their old stock in that quarter. —More dynamite in England and Ireland. —International Exhibition opened at Nice. —King Humbert to visit Germany; all the crowned heads seem to be getting up an international on their own account. —Crown Prince to have the Order of Christ (whatever that may be) from the Pope. —Moody and Sankey finish at Stepney. —A czar thrown from a sled; even a Czar can't play boy sometimes. —Earthquake in Lisbon. —Remains of De Long and his companions at Irkutsk. —Four thousand Lancashire cotton operatives on strike. —Two of the Glasgow gunners sentenced for life, and the other for seven years.

Domestic.—Col. H. R. Rathbone, of Albany, shoots himself and wife in Germany. —Texas Pacific has bridged the Atchafalaya River. —Three thousand employees of tube works in Pittsburgh report reduction in wages. —Gen. Grant tipped on the ice and was badly bruised. —Snow, sleet, rain and general discomfort. —Christmas business good. —Senate. Labor Congress met in Baltimore. —Harriet Martineau's statue unveiled in Boston. —Mrs. Livermore and Wendell Phillips speaking. —Avalanche near Lyons, kills six persons and wounds five. —Fire in "Cabinet" building, Yale College. —Fouquet-d'Uz Censola still in prison. —Atto the Tribune's article on his friends. —Bust of Garfield unveiled at Hiram College. —New England societies of New York City and elsewhere celebrate.

ABOUT TOWN.

—Mr. Howell Johnson expects to make his New Year's calls in Middletown, N. J.

—The wife of Mr. J. G. Moffat, owner of Moffat's Mills, Glen Ridge, died in New York on Monday night.

—Mr. R. N. Dodd has added several new cutters to his stock of shagbats; Van Aschela has a supply.

—Mr. Grant J. Wheeler assisted in a team drill on Wednesday night at a Christmas-tree entertainment in Newark.

—Rev. E. D. Simons read a paper on the "Liberation" at the Baptist Preachers' Meeting in New York, on Monday last.

—In consequence of the heavy frost on the river, Thursday evening, a number of New York businessmen had rather bad dinners.

—The Bloomfield Fire Association will hold a meeting on Friday evening, December 31st, at 8 o'clock. See advertisement in another column.

—A fifteenth wedding anniversary was celebrated by Mr. and Mrs. Chas. M. Lockwood, on New Year's eve, at their residence on Thomas Street.

—After the snow was cleared from the sidewalks the Water Company were engaged to send a man out to shovel it away from the hydrants, nearly every hydrant being carried under the snow.

—Miss Hubbard, of the intermediate department in the public school, presented one of her fifty or sixty scholars with a really beautiful Christmas card, which she had fringed and frosted herself.

—Our friend Mr. Dancer, the newsman, is such a proverb for promptness that it quite surprised the town to see him bringing papers with the help of a reluctant black horse of his, about an hour late on Monday morning.

—It was that of the train, which was a great deal of time by reason of the fact that the new mill as a branch of the business.

—The Hose Company have not yet received their truck from the Township Committee. The regular weekly tilt between the Committee and representatives of the Hose Company, the result being that the Committee postponed any definite action for another week. In case fire should occur it would be interesting to know which of these two grave and headless bodies—guardians of the property and welfare of the public—the one would be placed.

—A cheerful spectacle was presented by the passengers of a morning train to New York one day this week. A gentleman, from up the road sat calmly spilling water on the water-pail which is split to use all passengers as what the "woman" uses when he fills the so-called "water cooler." Opposite to him an English young man was glaring at his "water pail," which he poked and scraped, and looked down and around and into the water, in a blood-curdling manner.

—The case of Peterson against Ford was off before Justice Hagenau, on Friday P. M. last week. The plaintiff was represented by Smith E. Perry, and the defendant by Lawyer Randolph, and resulted in Ford being held to appear under \$500 bail, before the Grand Jury. The evidence clearly showed that Ford had raised his revolver in a position to shoot, and had it pointed directly at the plaintiff, but that Peterson's father-in-law ran between them and thus prevented the act. From facts gathered during the past week it has been found that Peterson did not purchase the small debts which he tried to collect, but that one was presented to him and the other he was requested to collect by a friend of his. Peterson has charge of the Chestnut Hill Depot, and for his services he receives a monthly ticket on the N. Y. & G. I. Railroad. This job Ford had endeavored to secure from him, which was probably the origin of the trouble.

The Village Improvement Association.

The public meeting of the Village Improvement Association, held on Friday evening of last week, though not as well attended as it probably would have been but for the unfavorable weather, brought together a goodly number of the representative men of the town. President Davis, after calling the meeting to order, made the following statement of the workings of the Association:

GENTLEMEN OF THE VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION:

It is very gratifying to me to meet so many of you here on this inclement night, and very pleasant and satisfactory to rehearse what has been done since our organization. It is safe to say that much more has been accomplished in the way of public improvements during the year just passed than had been for ten years previous.

The Park, the water supply, the organization of the Fire Association, the improvement of the depot and grounds of the D. L. & W. Railroad, the starting of the village paper, besides increased attention to sanitary matters, the grading of sidewalks, as well as the general embellishment of the town—all these seemed an impulse and material aid which your Society alone could give. The Park, which, with the exception of the trees planted, had remained untouched for nearly a hundred years, has, through your agency, been beautifully laid out, graded and embellished, and will need but little to keep it in repair for a century to come. Special notice is due to Mr. Ballantine for planning and to Mr. N. H. Dodd for executing this work.

It may be said with truth that the water supply would not have been accomplished without the aid and active influence of members of your Association.

The commencement and carrying through to completion of the Fire Department—paid for mostly by voluntary contributions—was chiefly under the leadership of members of your society.

The improvement of the Central Depot and grounds received the early attention of your Committee, and they were met by assurances that what they asked for should be granted.

The village paper was the regular outgrowth of the Association. The spirit and ability with which it has been conducted are known to you all.

Tree planting has not been neglected. More than one hundred trees have been transplanted. Many other improvements have been made at the suggestion and by the assistance of your Committee. Between \$14,000 and \$15,000 have been expended on the objects mentioned, say nothing of large additions to churches, putting down the double track, and the building of houses. Of these last seventeen have been commenced since the first of September last.

Some of these we know have been commenced by the impulse given by your society. We must not forget to mention that in all these enterprises we have received the active co-operation of the Township Committee, who according to their means have rendered all the assistance in their power.

The outlook for further improvements is most encouraging and promises results equally favorable with those already accomplished. Some of these will occupy our attention this evening. Let us go on with this work. It is a noble occupation. It takes away our thoughts from ourselves, and includes the good of every one in the entire village.

After reading the above report by President Davis, it was stated that the meeting was called for the purpose of discussing the same, and the extension of Liberty Street and accompanying drainage, the straightening of Broad Street from Belleville Avenue to Bay Lane, the improvement of sidewalks and other matters of public interest. The discussion was participated in by Judge Dodd and other gentlemen, who were of the opinion that the extension of Liberty Street was of immediate necessity, but the drainage of the plot north of Bloomfield Avenue and west of Broad Street is of great importance, and one that can be comparatively easily accomplished. That in the grading of Bloomfield Avenue the drainage of the section north of it had been overlooked, and the water acts as a dam to the water accumulating there.

A covered culvert to Tony's Brook was talked of, and also an underground sewer from the cemetery to the canal. The discussion resulted in the appointment of a committee, of whom Dr. Davis is chairman, to investigate the matter of the drainage of this entire level and to consult with the Township Committee as to the most feasible plan.

The straightening of Broad Street was then brought to the attention of the meeting, and from remarks by Mr. E. A. Smith and other gentlemen, the fact was brought out that the section of Broad Street under discussion, as at present occupied, is of irregular width, and many of the fences are not on the street line. That several years ago, before the death of Mr. Warren S. Baldwin, a survey was made that was acceptable to him and almost all the property owners interested, but that a caveat was filed that hung the matter up in the Courts for several years, and when the matter was satisfactorily settled and the survey recorded, the interest had lapsed and nothing was accomplished, placing the fences on the established line excepting only the stone piers for the new G. L. R. bridge. But now, when improvements are being made, property owners desire to know where to find the established line, and it is desirable to have the water pipes placed in proper position, that they may not soon have to be relaid. A committee was appointed, with Dr. Davis as chairman, to present the matter to the Township Committee and request that they have the road line established in accordance with the legal survey, so that the Water Company can place their pipes in proper position.

The discussion of these two topics having exhausted the time without action on sidewalks, the meeting was adjourned until the first Friday in February for the discussion of these and other topics of interest, at which meeting the public are cordially invited to attend.

BALLOTS.

Venor the Wise says the ruddy skies Will surely give us a pleasant surprise. For summer will come, in about two weeks. To thaw our noses and freckle our cheeks. But the place where these cheerful prophets go Is hotter than any such weather, you know.

The best writing is that employed in fighting a wrong.

"Breakers ahead," the china clerk said, as a shopper upset a fine statuette.

A New York paper advertises: "For sale, a brown stone gentleman's residence." Can it be the Cardiff giant's late abode?

Miss Alice Virtue and a male companion helped themselves to Mr. Burkhardt's sleigh, in Newark, on Wednesday, and drove off. Of that male companion it may truly be said: "His failings leaned to Virtue's side."

A lady in Troy dropped dead in church on Sunday night, and the Troy paper pointedly adds: "The congregation were singing a hymn at the time." Now that the mischief is done that congregation will probably hire a quartette choir.

It is said that Americans are indebted to Mrs. Alexander Hamilton for the introduction of ice-cream. If so, what a graceful act it would be for the young women of America the class most deeply benefited to erect to her memory a monument. It would be a neat idea to have it composed of different colored marbles, thus presenting the appearance of a harlequin moult of the icy compound. What do girls care for Liberty Enlightening the World? Not half as much as they do for ice-cream. Let them then reserve their donations for Mrs. Hamilton, and let the men see to Liberty and her old pedestal.

Augustus said that woman was manifestly inferior to man.

Julia said she did not think so, and would bet him a box of gloves he could not mention any ways in which men earned a living (except those requiring great manual strength) for which women were unfitted.

Augustus smiled, accepted the bet, and asked her to name a woman who could earn a thousand dollars a year singing bass in a church choir?

Julia cast upon him a withering glance, and remarking that she hoped she would be able to find gloves large enough for him, she doubted it, took up a book, and commenced reading "How to Keep Hens for Profit."

On Black-Balling.

To the Bloomfield Citizen:

I was interested in reading the editorial in your last issue entitled "News," and while agreeing therewith, will, with your permission, do a little fault finding with the following: "Several persons were black-balled who bear an unstained reputation, and are equally as good as, if not better, than many of those who opposed them. In an organization of that kind (Hose Company) politics should be left at home. Because a man happens to be either a Republican or a Democrat is no reason why he should be debarrd from membership."

Properly the above quotation is not a piece of legitimate news, as the election or rejection of candidates can only concern those individually interested, and the writer wrote only upon hearsay, and knew nothing of what he wrote. This is evident from the expression "unstained reputation." If he gave the names of those rejected, the readers of your paper could form their own judgment as to its correctness, and the names of those present and voting would put the blush upon that nicely put sentence, "are equally as good as, if not better, than many of those who opposed them."

The crown is in the last paragraph, and the Hose Company leave the points where the item suggests—at home, while your correspondent either shadows his own views, or is the oracle of one, a member of the Fire Association, who has spent considerable time in working the "political," and who would like to run the Hose Company, through agents of his selection, while he gives his personal attention to the Truck Company, of which he is a member; and who has individually and officially tried every mode his ingenuity could devise to keep the Hose Company out of their carriage in the endeavor to force his agents upon us. HOSK.

The Delusion Mouse Trap.

About the newest "advertisement" we have seen of late is the following:

"The greatest thing in the Mouse Trap line is the Delusion, because it does not catch a mouse around the neck and squeeze the immortal soul out of him, like the old kind, but gets him inside in a cordial, friendly manner, and sets out a free lunch counter for the victim. When the other mice hear him rattling the plates and smashing his lips, they all go in. It will hold enough for a quorum, and after the census has transacted all the business that is to come before the meeting, a motion to adjourn is in order; but when they come to adjourn, it is found to be impossible to do so with any degree of success. They generally worry through the watches of the night, and in the morning the woman of the house puts the trap in a tub of water, and the work is done. Thousands of mice are now climbing the golden stair in this manner. This trap is more fatal than the yellow fever and about as prompt and efficient as a lead-vigilance committee. The way this trap is going on, it won't be long before the women of this glorious republic will have nothing to jump up in a chair and squeal at whatever. The Delusion is filling up the little mouse cemeteries throughout the land at an appalling rate."

The porte cochere at the depot was never intended to be occupied by anybody's carriage. If all owners and drivers of vehicles will see that it is kept clear, it will be a great kindness to everybody. This can easily be done by a trifle of courtesy all around.

He Criticizes a Critic.

To the Bloomfield Citizen.

MR. EDITOR: We have in our own minds, once and again, congratulated our community on the happy exchange it has experienced, from a thing of literary poverty and piteous weakness, to a paper of strength and general suitability.

Its fair and impartial manner of dealing with the various matters that have come under its observation has been gratifying. But in your issue of the 8th inst., over the initials "H. J. S.," we perceive a somewhat different estimate of it in these latter respects. You note sufficiently shows how unfounded that estimate is. But it is not for us to offer a defence of your editorial methods in this or other respects. You are quite equal to that yourself when there is need of it.

There is, however, other matter which this writer has interwoven with his communication, which should receive a word of notice.

In claiming, as he does, a fuller and more appreciative notice in your Journal of the recent entertainment, in the Roman Catholic Union Hall, he mentions several considerations which he deems should have induced the desired recognition.

The first of these is the numerical strength of his co-religionists in Bloomfield—"over a thousand" strong. Is it a truly American idea that the rendering of its rights to a party may be regulated, given or withheld, lavished freely or doled out, according to its numerical strength or weakness? This may suit the despots of Europe, whether purely political or politico-religious, but is abhorred by America, which believes that the just rights of a small number should be as readily and fully granted as those of a million.

Did the writer intend this parading of numbers as a note of intimidation, or was it the mature fruit in him of the despotic force-principle, brought to our shores in certain foreign breasts, and cherished here as in its native soil? Is there, Mr. Editor, any likeness between this boast of numbers, and that threat held out about a year ago by a certain party, to New York politicians, to shelve them should they refuse to vote money from public funds to said party for sectarian ends?

You are further reminded of the great debt of gratitude the town owes the Roman Catholic population for relieving her of the "burden" of providing schools for their children by doing it themselves. Weigh that debt, surely! With whom originated this plan to remove the children of the Romanists from the public schools? Has any town or State in the Union ever asked or suggested that they should do this? Does any good citizen refuse to bear his part of "the burden"? Is it not true, rather, that the facilities of education are provided by general taxation, and equal opportunities are offered to all who choose to avail themselves of them?

Protestant and Romanist alike! The latter have only assumed an additional load in supplying separate institutions for their own use, besides those open to all. These parish schools owe their whole inception and support to the Papal Hierarchy, as a device to rescue the children of Romanists from the contamination of the public schools, which they stigmatize as "godless and infidel" just because they refuse to teach the doctrines of Rome or of any other sect. No truly American community regards these priestly schools with pleasure or favor; but as hotbeds of political evil and danger to the republic.

And yet, forsooth, we are here reminded of our heavy debt of gratitude for their presence in our midst. But more; your critic claims that his religion and that of his fellow-worshippers makes them as good Americans as their neighbors. The man who writes that must either not know the truth in the case, or he evades it. If men honestly believe and carry out the doctrines they are taught, the character and practical living of Protestants and Roman Catholics, as religionists and citizens, must be widely different. Many of their respective doctrines are utterly antagonistic, so that if one be true, the other must be false. If one be of God, the other cannot be. Indeed, but few, if any, of their doctrinal and practical teachings are really in harmony. Can a naturally bitter fountain and its opposite send forth the same quality of water? What system is it which teaches that "the end justifies the means"; that "mental reservation" is allowable; that its adherents are to keep "no faith with a heretic"? Does Protestantism so teach? When? Where? Can Romanism, that does so hold and teach, make as good citizens as its opponent that does not teach such things, but the entire reverse? Observe the practical issues of these religious antagonisms, the Papacy and Protestantism, in the several countries where they have respectively borne sway in moulding the character and conduct of the people, and in giving type and shape to their condition, social, civil and political. What of Italy, the very cradle and nursery of the Papacy? Of Spain, where its growth has been rank and its fruit well ripened? Of France, the home of infidelity and insurrection? Of the south and west of Ireland, that domain of turbulence, rebellion, whiskey and blood? Of Mexico, the character and condition of whose people would do dishonor to mere barbarism in comparison? Do we find the duplicate of all this in Scotland, England, Prussia, Switzerland, and most noteworthy of all, our own republican America, every true citizen of which manfully abjures all allegiance to any other power, and that, too, without any mental reservation in favor of a foreign potentate or despot? What class of religionists fills our almshouses, penitentiaries and jails, far more numerous than any other? Who among us are the chief vendors and consumers of spirituous liquors?

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